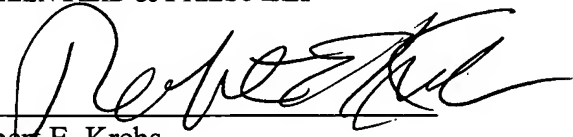


**REMARKS**

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

Dated: 14 December 2001

  
Robert E. Krebs  
Reg. No. 25,885

THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
Tel: (408) 292-5800  
Fax: (408) 287-8040